

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /082 W
-----240938Z 019565 /22

R 240745Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0746
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1057

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, LA
SUBJECT: SOUPHANOUVONG IN INDIA; A PRINCE AMONGST THE PAUPERS

1. LAO PRESIDENT, PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, ACCOMPANIED BY A
CONSIDERABLE RETINUE INCLUDING THE VICE PREMIER AND MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH, VISITED INDIA FROM
JANUARY 12 THROUGH 19. THE LAO LEADER HAD TALKS WITH PRIME
MINISTER GANDHI, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Y.B. CHAVAN,
AND PRESIDENT FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED ON THE 19TH IS SIMILAR IN CONTENT TO THOSE DOCUMENTS
MARKING THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER VISITS OF HUNGARIAN
PRESIDENT LOSCONCZI AND BULGARIAN PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV. THE
COMMUNIQUE LAUDS THE "GLORIOUS VICTORY" OF THE PEOPLES OF
THE INDO-CHINA PENINSULA, AND RECORDS THE HOPE THAT
SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL BE TRULY AN AREA OF PEACE AND
FRIENDSHIP. BOTH SIDES TAKE PRIDE IN THE "GROWING STRENGTH
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AND SUPPORT THE APPLICATION
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OF VIETNAM FOR UN MEMBERSHIP." EXPANSION OF MILITARY FACILITIES
IN DIEGO GARCIA IS TERMED "NOT CONDUCIVE TO THE PROMOTION
OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA." THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO
NOTES INDIAN WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION
OF LAOS, AND THE LAO DESIRE TO SHARE IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL
GAINS OF INDIAN ACHIEVEMENTS. THE DOCUMENT CAREFULLY SPECIFIED
THAT THE DETAILS OF THIS COOPERATION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO

FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.

2. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIA, N. R. VERMA, TOLD US ON JAN. 20 THAT THE VISIT WAS A MODEST INDIAN RESPONSE TO A LAO INITIATIVE. VERMA SAID THE LAO HAD "INVITED THEMSELVES, BUT WE WERE PLEASED TO HAVE THEM AT THIS TIME". VERMA ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN THE GOI VIEW THE LAO HAD SENT THEIR NUMBER TWO FIGURE, "WHO PUTS FORWARD THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE TO THE LIBERAL COUNTRIES."

3. TURNING TO AN INDIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LAOS, VERMA SAID THAT 7 MILLION RUPEES HAD ALREADY BEEN EXPENDED IN PROGRAMS OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT, AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES INCLUDING BICYCLES AND MEDICINES. THE MEA OFFICER SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE INDIAN AID, BUT A RAILWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY AND A PAPER PLANT HAD BEEN MENTIONED. VERMA WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHEN TALKS ON THESE TOPICS MIGHT ACTUALLY COMMENCE. HE DID SAY THAT THE GOI WOULD BE GLAD TO EXTEND ADDITIONAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE. APPROXIMATELY 100 LAO ARE NOW IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES, VERMA ADDED, AND SPECIALISTS IN FIELDS SUCH AS FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND BICYCLE ASSEMBLY HAVE BEEN IN INDIA FOR SHORT PERIODS.

4. THE INDIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S DAILY, "PATRIOT", REPORTED THAT PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG IN HIS AIRPORT FAREWELL REMARKS HAD REFERRED TO LAOS' STRUGGLE AGAINST "BARBARISM, AGGRESSION AND COLONIAL DOMINATION", BUT THIS QUOTE WAS OMITTED FROM REPORTAGE IN ALL OTHER PAPERS. THERE WERE NO

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SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE U.S. BY EITHER SIDE REPORTED AT ANY POINT DURING THE PRINCE'S VISIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Page Count: 2
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: SOUPHANOUVONG IN INDIA; A PRINCE AMONGST THE PAUPERS
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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